

REMARKS

Claims 11-12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 22 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 11, 12 and 17 are amended. Claims 11, 12 and 17 have been amended to further define the claimed embodiment of the invention. Claims 11 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 15 and 21, respectively. Thus, claims 15 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 13, 19 and 23-26 have also been canceled.

No new matter has been added. Support for language added to the claims is found in the original specification and claims. In particular, support for the language of the second added clause in claims 11 and 17 is found in original claims 2-4 and in paragraph 22 of the specification. Support for the language of the first added clause in claims 11 and 17 is found in cancelled claims 15 and 21. Support for the language added to claim 12 is found in paragraph 30 of the specification.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Knable in the October 20, 2004 interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because, e.g., they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 11-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, claims 11 and 13-26 were rejected for not describing the location for the reinforcing member. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 17 to limit the location of the tire reinforcing member as being applied to the green tire in a side surface area of the green tire, between an outer rubber and side wall portion, on one hand, and an inner liner rubber on the other hand. See paragraph 22 of the specification. Therefore, Applicant submits the requirements of the Patent Office have been met and the rejection is now overcome.

The Patent Office further alleges that claim 12 is not disclosed in the original disclosure. In particular, the Patent office alleges the original disclosure does not describe that the carrier supports the bead filler rubber for application of the annular laminated body. Applicant has amended claim 12 to correspond to the description in paragraph 30 of the specification. Applicant submits the requirements of the Patent Office have been met.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. JP '506 in view of Holroyd

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 10-109506 to Sumitomo Rubber (hereinafter JP '506) in view of GB 2134439 (hereinafter Holroyd). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '506 generally discloses the formation of a tire having a tire reinforcing member. Holroyd teaches a method of filling a sidewall cavity that involves providing an extrudate into a mold cavity and then consolidating the extrudate into a homogeneous mass to create the desired side wall. See page 2, lines 67-94 of Holroyd.

Neither JP '506 nor Holroyd disclose forming a tire having a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged as recited in claim 11. In fact, JP '506 teaches that the ribbon is extruded in a particular direction. See paragraph 8 of JP '506. Therefore, the short fibers are not randomly arranged as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, neither reference teaches or suggests how JP '506 and Holroyd would have been combined so that the invention disclosed in Holroyd would form an overlapping rubber ribbon instead of a unitary molded piece used in a molding side member. Holroyd does not teach or suggest that the extrudate has to form a ribbon that overlaps itself with each adjacent turn of the ribbon.

In fact, according to Holroyd, it does not matter if the extrudate is provided in an orderly fashion, as it simply has to fill a cavity to a specific level so the extrudate can be consolidated into a single homogeneous mass. As such, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of JP '506 and Holroyd.

Therefore, JP '506 and Holroyd do not teach or suggest a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged. Furthermore, forming a tire having a tire reinforcing member "so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent ribbon,...until an annular laminated body...is formed" as recited in claim 11 is not taught or suggested by JP '506 and Holroyd. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 13 are thus respectfully requested.

B. JP '506 in view of Holroyd in view of JP '717

Claims 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '506 in view of Holroyd and further in view of JP 10-315717 (hereinafter JP '717). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '717 does not remedy the deficiencies of JP '506 and Holroyd. In particular, a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged and a tire having a tire reinforcing member "so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent ribbon,...until an annular laminated body...is formed" as recited in claim 11 is nowhere taught or suggested by JP '506, Holroyd or JP '717.

Claim 15 directly depends on allowable claim 11. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

C. JP '506 in view of Holroyd in view of JP '717 in view of Laurent

Claims 14, 16 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '506 in view of Holroyd in view of JP '717 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,963,207 (hereinafter Laurent) and/or EP 968814 (hereinafter EP '814). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Laurent, discussed in more detail below, does not remedy the deficiencies of JP '506, Holroyd and JP '717. In particular, a tire having a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged and a tire having a tire reinforcing member "so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent ribbon,...until an annular laminated body...is formed" as recited in claim 11 is nowhere taught or suggested by JP '506, Holroyd, JP '717 or Laurent.

Claims 14, 16 and 23-24 directly or indirectly depend on allowable claim 11. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

D. JP '506 in view of Laurent and/or EP '814

Claims 17-20, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '506 taken in view of Laurent and/or EP '814. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither JP '506, Laurent nor EP '814 disclose forming a tire having a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged as recited in claim 17. In fact, JP '506 particularly teaches that the short fibers of the rubber ribbon are oriented in a specific manner. Thus, the combination of references do not teach or suggest the randomly arranged short fibers but instead teach that the fibers are arranged in a specific manner.

Further, none of the references teach or suggest how the combination of JP '506, Laurent and/or EP '814 would have been integrated to create the system recited in claim 17. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references to create the invention recited in claim 17.

As discussed above, JP '506 discloses the formation of a tire having a tire reinforcing member. Laurent discloses a plurality of extruding devices for application of rubber onto a solid core. EP '814 discloses a process for laying rubber onto a rotating support.

Laurent does not teach of the formation of green tire on a rotatable carrier, then extruding rubber ribbon onto the created green tire so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent turn of the ribbon until an annular laminated body is formed on the green tire, and forming the complete tire from the green tire.

Similarly EP '814 does not teach or suggest the formation of green tire on a rotatable carrier, then extruding rubber ribbon onto the created green tire so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent turn of the ribbon until an annular laminated body is formed on the green tire, and forming the complete tire from the green tire. EP '814 only discloses the laying of a ribbon shaped rubber, not the method of forming an entire tire.

Therefore, JP '506, Laurent and/or EP '814 do not teach or suggest forming a tire having a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers

are randomly arranged and comprising the formation of green tire on a rotatable carrier, then extruding rubber ribbon onto the created green tire so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent turn of the ribbon until an annular laminated body is formed on the green tire, and forming the complete tire from the green tire as recited in claim 17. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 17-20, 22 and 25 are thus respectfully requested.

E. JP '506 in view of Laurent and/or EP '814 in view of JP '717

Claims 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '506 taken in view of Laurent and/or EP '814 and further in view of JP '717. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '717 does not remedy the deficiencies of JP '506, Laurent and EP '814. In particular, forming a tire having a tire reinforcing member wherein the rubber ribbon is extruded so that the short fibers are randomly arranged and comprising the formation of green tire on a rotatable carrier, then extruding rubber ribbon onto the created green tire so that an edge of one turn of the rubber ribbon is overlapped with an opposite edge of an adjacent turn of the ribbon until an annular laminated body is formed on the green tire, and forming the complete tire from the green tire as recited in claim 17 is nowhere taught or suggested by JP '506, Laurent and EP '814 or JP '717.

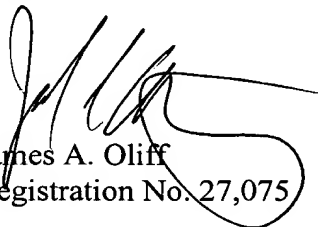
Claims 21 and 26 directly or indirectly depend on allowable claim 17. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 11-12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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